have to the provided in rural areas later on, and they promised to consider the matter. The Member said that the time had arrived for introducing Local Boards. He would suggest that there should be separate District Boards, Taluk Boards and Village Boards. The absence of such bodies was a serious disability at present He said also that the maintenance of village roads, lanes and water-sources' now under the Revenue department, the control over *poramboke* and waste lands, the improvement of agriculture on scientific and up-to-date lines, primary education, village sanitation and hygiene, and the working of the Village Panchayats, were some of the matters which the Boards could be safely entrusted with. If the Government approved of the above proposals, he said that he would submit a detailed scheme within a fixed time to regulate the working of the Boards.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

137. The need for concerting measures to direct commercial activities in Travancore.

Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer (Member, Trading Classes, Nagercoil) said that over three crores of rupees' worth of articles were being annually exported from the State and a like quantity was also being imported. The Government were also spending large sums of money on the sea-ports, the benefit of which did not go to the people of the State. The people had a keen desire to attempt all industries in the State, but, for want of experience and advice, they were unable to move forward. He suggested that, if a Commercial Department was established in the State, it would prove of lasting good, in the same way as the Department of Agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

138. The necessity for allowing a permanent Member to represent the Gauda Saraswatha Brahmin s in the Assembly.

Mr. V. Kesavan Mallan (Member, Nominated) said that, in Travancore, there were over 12,000 Gauda Saraswatha Brahmins, who were living mostly in the Quilon and the Kottayam Divisions, and that they were very backward in education and civilization, and generally very poor also. They had very little chance of being elected as Members of the Assembly under the ordinary rules. He therefore requested that the community should be given the privilege of representation by a permanent Member. to be elected by the Members of the community under the presidentship of the Tahsildar of the Sherthalai taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

139. A plea for a special electorate for the Eazhavas, with a view to securing adequate representation of the community in the Assembly.

Mr. K. M. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) said that the Eazhavas formed one-sixth of the total population of Travancore, and that they had, if election was allowed by communities, a claim for electing 16 out of the 100 Members of the Assembly. But, since the institution of the Assembly, only one Eazhava had been elected as a Member by the taluk voters in one year. They had thus little or no chance of being adequately represented in the Assembly under the ordinary rules. In the taluk elections, only the influential men of the place usually got elected. The lists of voters were far from correct, as many eligible Eazhavas had been omitted. He requested that the Government should insist upon the voters' lists being made quite full and accurate. It was also necessary to enforce the attendance of *all* the voters at the election meetings.

It was on a consideration of the inadequate representation of the community under the election rules that the Government had reserved six seats in the Assembly for the Eazhavas, to be filled up by nomination. The community was very grateful to the Government for the privilege. But such nominations were generally made on the

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